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BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1897.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President sends to Congress his annual message at a time when he is momentarily expecting the death of his beloved mother; but, of course, there is nothing in the document which breathes aught of his personal sorrow. His communication to Congress is purely official, and was probably prepared before the President heard of his mother's illness.

We find the President's language calm and dignified, and his view of the country's future hopeful. The message is shorter than usual, and very properly omits many of those matters of detail as to which the departmental reports give abundant information.

Very properly, too, the currency question occupies the foremost place in the message. The views presented are in the main those which the President's Secretary of the Treasury is well known to hold.

The President recommends that "as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all of the expenses of the government," when United States notes are presented for redemption in gold, and are redeemed in gold, such notes shall be kept and set apart and only paid out in exchange for gold. He also urges that national banks be authorized to issue notes to an amount equal to the face value of the bonds which they have deposited to secure their note circulation. At present the banks can only issue 90 per cent. of the face value of such bonds. The President further recommends that the tax upon the national-bank circulation be reduced from 1 per cent. to one-half of one per cent. Also that the minimum national bank capital be reduced from \$50,000 to \$25,000.

Again, the President recommends that the national banks be allowed to issue a note of a less denomination than \$10. The effect of such a law would be to give greater circulation than at present to silver and gold, and, particularly, to silver certificates of denominations less than \$10.

And if these recommendations be adopted he would have the bank notes all made redeemable in gold.

If the way were clear for the adoption of these recommendations of the President, it is probable that some measure of relief would thus be afforded to our business world; but everybody knows that not one of these measures can pass the Senate as that body is now constituted. Mr. Reed may pass them through the House, but in the Senate they will be side-tracked by the votes of the senators who think that justice should be done to silver before any action is taken upon the banking question.

On the Cuban question the President's message is pacific, not to say cheerful. He reports that we now have a better understanding with Spain than in a long time before. He is assured that henceforth the military operations there will be conducted humanely and with regard to private rights, and that they will be accompanied by political action looking to the autonomy of Cuba, yet guarding Spanish sovereignty. The President states, that as far as he knows, no American is now imprisoned in Cuba, and declares it is our duty to give Spain full opportunity to work out her present plans for the government of that island. Meanwhile, however, the President renews the ultimatum of Spain that the United States are not to do their duty in the matter of suppressing filibustering expeditions.

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servative of seal life and effectual for the protection of our interests.

The work of the Hon. John A. Kasson, who has been appointed special commissioner abroad to negotiate treaties in which reciprocity figures, is referred to and commended, though really it does not appear that the Kansas statesman has been able to do much in the way of earning his salary. The truth is that nearly all of Mr. Kasson's time in Europe has been spent in explaining that the Dingley bill is not quite so outrageous a measure as it is said to be. But as yet we have heard of no Europeans and few Americans whom he has converted.

The President desires a battle-ship built for service on the Pacific coast. He would also have appropriations made for constructing four great dock-yards. He insists, too, that arrangements should be made forthwith to provide the armor for the three vessels now waiting for it. He further reports that our navy stands in need of more officers and enlisted men.

The President, of course, favors the annexation of Hawaii, but does not think an instantaneous enfranchisement of the natives would be wise. Possibly he also has some doubts now whether the negro should have been so suddenly transformed from slavery to citizenship. However that may be, he says, with reference to annexing Hawaii, that "we should avoid the assimilation of elements perhaps hardly yet fitted to share in the highest franchises of citizenship." Yet he would give the natives (deprived, he supposes) "just provisions for self-rule in local matters, with the largest political liberties as an integral part of our nation." The President doubtless knows exactly what he means, but we have to confess that we do not.

In concluding his message, President McKinley enjoins upon Congress that there should be economy in the expenditures of the Federal Government. In this we fully agree with him, but we regret to see in his message entire omission of any appeal to the two houses to cut down the appropriations for pensions. Any appeal to Congress for economy which does not include a demand for an honest pension-roll cannot but be regarded as "a howling farce." Properly pruned, the pension-roll might be reduced to one-half of its present aggregate sum, but if it is ever to be subjected to that process, it will not be during the presidency of Major McKinley.

In summing up, we have to say that though the message is couched in dignified terms, it is a partisan document throughout. There is some preaching about civil-service reform, but down here in Richmond we know what Republican civil service means.

We think the influence that the message will exert upon the business world will be calming. The message gives us no great hope of general prosperity, but on the other hand, it contains nothing that will alarm financiers and investors.

## MCKINLEY ON THE TARIFF.

President McKinley, in his reference in his message to the Dingley tariff, says "while its full effects have not yet been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom." Alas! we fear 'tis all too true that its full effects have not been realized. Furthermore, if the deficit in our revenues that has mounted up under it is an indication of what its full effects will be, it is to be hoped that they never will be realized. When we consider that the Dingley bill has accomplished in five months a deficit of some \$26,000,000, it takes to see in it any timeliness or wisdom an optimism past the comprehension of the average man.

Of course, these observations are based on the supposition that Mr. McKinley discusses the bill as a revenue producer. If, however, he discusses it as a trust and monopoly fattener, our remarks do not count, and we withdraw the intimations that the President is mistaken as to what the bill has accomplished so far and is too sanguine as to the future.

When the recent international naval display took place in Hampton Roads it was suggested that two of the big battleships go out to sea and blaze away at each other, in order to test their efficiency as fighters. Russia has not made this test in her navy, but she has done the next thing to it. In order to prove the resisting power and impermeability of water-tight bulkheads, the Russian admiral caused the compartments of a battleship to be filled with water under conditions analogous to those that would obtain if the ship were pierced when at sea. The New York Herald's European edition says that the test showed that from the lower deck upward the bulkheads were perfect, letting in not a drop of water. Below, however, the case was different. Here, not only all the holes pierced for electric wires and other installations, leaked, but there was a very perceptible escape of water around the connecting bolts and through some of the seams. These defects, it is added, are, of course, easily remedied, but without the trial they would never have been noticed, or not until too late.

In the consular reports for November is an account of the organization of beet-sugar factories in Germany, which derives especial interest from the fact that it shows that these factories afford an example of the successful application of the co-operative principle. Out of the 320 factories now in operation in Germany, nearly half are stock companies in which the majority of the shareholders are beet-growers. These include not only most of the largest factories, but also the most prosperous ones.

Among expressions of opinion upon the Cuban question published in the New York Herald of yesterday is the following from the Hon. John W. Daniel: "I think we ought to recognize the independence of Cuba, but I do not look for any radical legislation."

Thomas A. Edison, Jr., a son of the wizard of the world of electricity, has started out on his own account as an electrical inventor, and has shown more than one flash of brilliancy already, it is said.

The influenza has loosened its grip on Hanna sufficiently to permit of that gentleman's taking his seat in the Senate yesterday, but Hanna's grip on the administration remains as tight as ever.

"One hundred women will soon start for the Klondike under the leadership of Mrs. Hannah Gould, a woman of advanced ideas"—and of advancing ideas, also, it is clear.

The Polaski News-Review calls for legislation that will make it pretty warm for any one who, either by criminal carelessness or purposely, sets the woods on fire.

Hereafter the Newport News Evening Telegram will be printed on pink paper.

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## THE MEETING TO-NIGHT.

The Dispatch expects to see a fine meeting of business-men in the Chamber of Commerce hall to-night. And in this classification we include owners of real estate and other capitalists who are not actively engaged in trade, but whose income and the future value of whose property is dependent upon the prosperity of this city.

The time has come for us to unite and put our shoulders to the wheel. Every man who has any interest here, be it large or small, should join his public-spirited fellow-citizens in making the present effort successful.

The Chamber has plans on foot which promise great things for Richmond, and if it is encouraged in its purposes it will be able to do a mighty work for our community.

We appeal to our business-men to go to the meeting, and by their personal presence and living voices give sympathy and support to the proposed undertaking, which contemplates the employment of a promoter to lead in the development of our industries.

Go and cast your lot with the patrons of this worthy enterprise. Don't be one of those who are willing to reap where others have sown, but join the sowers as a willing laborer, who loves Richmond, has faith in her future, and is anxious to lend a helping hand in everything that will promote her welfare.

## MCKINLEY'S BANKING POLICY.

President McKinley, in his recommendation regarding currency reform, to which we have referred in our general review of his message in these columns, recognizes that one of the great evils of our system is the endless chain—of the gold demand obligations. That he would do this was predicted in dispatches sent out from Washington some weeks ago; but we say now, as we said then, this recommendation does not meet the issue squarely. The President does not throw upon Congress the responsibility of annihilating the "cut-worms" of the Treasury.

His proposition is that the gold demand obligations shall not be released, except for gold. But as long as these obligations have an existence they will be a menace to the gold reserve, and will represent an uncertain factor in our finances. The financial situation will not, in that case, have been relieved from the "ambiguity of and doubt" Mr. McKinley thinks it so essential it should be relieved from. What guarantee would the people have against the gold notes hoarded in the Treasury being rehabilitated by Congress in case of emergency? What guarantee, indeed, would they have against their being restored to their present status by Congress in answer to a pressure from the speculative element to which the President alludes?

The President's recommendation that national-bank notes be restricted to denominations of \$10, and that the oaks be required to redeem these in gold, would appear to be along sound lines.

In the first place, as we have said elsewhere, the adoption of the recommendation would be calculated to promote the circulation of silver and silver certificates. In the second place, it would throw upon the banks a share of the burden of providing gold for exchanges and export. The President plainly says that the object of the recommendation is to bring about this latter result. To the extent it might be brought about, the banks would further fulfill the legitimate mission of banking, the Treasury gold reserve would be protected, and the necessity for keeping a heavy gold reserve be diminished.

However, we have used the phrase "might be brought about" advisedly, for the reason that, as we have said in our general review of the message, before referred to, we do not anticipate that any of the President's suggestions touching currency reform will pass the Senate. And as this view is widespread, we are encouraged to hope that business has discounted whatever fruitless agitation of the subject may take place in Congress.

The unreasonable Speaker Reed has taken that chair again, and will doubtless proceed to smash opposition with it, as heretofore.

Cabinet crises are becoming every-day affairs in Europe now, and they seem to be altogether harmless diversions.

The President is very considerate of the Dingley act. He says just as little about it as possible.

The lobbyist is on hand, also, we may be sure, at Washington, with plans afoot.

## A Mean Insinuation.

(Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.)

"I wonder who ever thought of making a cake-knife with a scalloped edge like that?" remarked Mrs. Newwed, holding up her late purchase for her husband to see.

"It was one of those accidental inventions," replied Mr. Newwed, meekly. "The fellow who made it used an ordinary knife to cut some of his wife's first pound-cake. When he got through it looked like that."

## Collar-Button a Good Phil.

(Tyrone Daily Herald.)

A Huntingdon man bought two pills and put them in his vest pocket. He also bought a pearl collar-button and put it in the same pocket. When it came time to take a pill he just shut his eyes, opened his mouth, and gulped it down. He was relieved of his headache and went on his way rejoicing. Afterward, having use for the collar-button, he felt in his pocket and found two pills and no collar-button.

## What Papa Thought.

(Detroit Free Press.)

Marie: I told papa, Willie, dear, that I thought you were just too lovely for any use.

Willie: And what did he say, darling?

Marie: He said he feared as much. Now, what could he have meant by that, Willie, dear?

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## WHAT IS LIFE?

A DISCOVERY BY PROF. GATES, OF WASHINGTON, WHICH ANSWERS THE QUESTION.

## An Interesting Subject.

"What is life?" This question has been asked during all ages, but it has never until now been successfully answered. Professor Elmer Gates, of Washington, who has been making great experiments with the microscope, has made virtually a double microscope; in other words, he brings the image of the first microscope on the lens, which picture on the lens is enlarged by the second microscope so that many things which it is impossible to see with an ordinary microscope are revealed. In this way he is able to see the smallest cells of the body in an exceedingly large form. He says: "Cut a piece of protoplasm into a number of pieces, and prove that the germs of life exist in each of the minute particles of the body."

But he goes farther, and says that he believes mind is life, and that mind is present in every particle of the body. This is a new and a startling, a wonderful theory, and it may lead to a revolution on the subjects of disease, health, and of happiness. It explains clearly one thing—that is, why the mind is frequently affected when the body is disordered, and it brings home the question of health or disease very forcibly.

It comes plain that in order to have a clear head and a strong mind, one must have a body that is in perfect condition. When the body is deranged the mind cannot see rightly. With pains in the back, nausea, weakness, bearing down sensations, and all the symptoms indicating a weakened condition of the kidneys and urinary organs, there is certain to be a clouding of the intellect which calls for immediate action. This action can only be successfully taken by using some great modern discovery that is certain to put the cell tissues in perfect shape. There is such a discovery, and it is doing more to counteract pain and establish health than anything known to modern times. In speaking of it, Dr. William Edward Robinson, of London, says: "I emphatically state that I have been able to give more relief and effect more cures by the use of Warner's Safe Cure than by all the medicines in the British pharmacopoeia." Dr. R. A. Gunn, dean of the United States Medical College, says: "I prescribe and use Warner's Safe Cure in both acute and chronic Bright's disease, and commend it most frankly." Such statements should convince any man or woman that there is no need of further suffering, if a prompt use is made of the remedy that is commended so highly.

## Accounted For.

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)

Knight Stunze: Last night, sir, the audience was completely carried away. Hargraves: Oh! That accounts for it. "Accounts for what?"

"For there being practically nobody there when I dropped in on the last act."

## Settled.

(Springfield Republican.)

The philosophic Yale Review concludes that the North Pole has been "a perpetual challenge to the sporting blood in the human race." This should settle the old question as to the use of Arctic exploration.

## A Love Song.

(Detroit Free Press.)

My very love, my very love,  
My love is more near, the sky above  
More intimately dear and true  
My very faults I seem to wear  
More bravely, since with me I bear  
Your love; and I of mine you share  
Kindly and close as hand and glove,  
Now daytime's worth the dreaming of,  
My very love!

My dearest heart, my dearest heart,  
With glowing girls I stand apart,  
With but a sorry shadow of a dream,  
The Master of the Harvesting,  
We're not that round my wheat ears  
cling  
Great poppies darkly reddening;  
Your love that makes my autumn  
My evening light, my crutch a wing—  
My dearest heart!

**Suits to Order,  
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Some of these goods formerly sold for \$20 a suit. We have too many goods on hand. We offer you big inducements to help us turn our stock into money.

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**J. P. BELL COMPANY,  
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(See 2d Th. Su. & Th. 3)

## THE POPE COMPLIMENTS US.

## United States to Be Put in Direct Relations to Himself.

(Rome Special in Philadelphia Press—6th.)  
ROME, December 5.—During an interview at the Vatican, Cardinal Rampolla, Papal Secretary of State, informed the correspondent that the Pope is about to afford a special proof of his good will toward the United States. He declined to add anything further by way of explanation.

From other sources of an ecclesiastical character it is learned that the Pontiff is about to publicly announce the transfer of the University of Washington from the control and supervision of the propagandists to the Congregation of Studies, which is a committee of cardinals and prelates presided over by Cardinal Sotillo. This was decided some time ago, and is now about to be officially announced. It is understood that this is the token of the Pope's regard meant by Cardinal Rampolla.

The compliment to the United States in the matter is to be found in the fact that America has until now been regarded as being impatience infidelism, and as a missionary or heathen country, and as such subject to the great missionary department here, known as the propaganda.

By transferring the Washington University to the Congregation of Studies, Leo XIII. practically places the United States upon the same level with the full-fledged Catholic countries of Europe, which are exempt from the control of the propaganda, and which deal with the Holy Father direct.



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(See 30-Th. Su. & Th. 3)

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36-inch All-Wool Storm Serges at 25c.  
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